

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-08 L-03 H-03 AID-20 SCI-06 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /173 W

----- 077649

R 021105Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7573

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO, SWEL, AORG

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF U.S. ASSESSMENT LEVEL IN WHO TO 25 PERCENT

REF: STATE 161945

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, DCM AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICER, CALLED ON WHO A/DG FURTH ON JULY 30 TO IMPRESS UPON HIM THE SERIOUS PROBLEM WE FACE IN ACCOMPLISHING A REDUCTION OF OUR ASSESSMENT LEVEL TO 25 PCT. AND TO ENLIST HIS AID IN THIS EFFORT. ALTHOUGH FURTH WAS, AL ALWAYS, MOST SYMPATHETIC, HE HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT DG MAHLER WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS REDUCTION IN THE UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE E.B. AND THE WHA. IT WAS FURTH'S OPINION THAT THE DG WOULD FEEL UNABLE TO TAKE A FURTHER INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER FOLLOWING THE SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS (WHICH HAD BEEN CRITICIZED AS PARTISAN BY SOME) AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PERTINENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION UNDER WHICH NO MEMBER'S ASSESSMENT WAS TO BE INCREASED SPECIFICALLY IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE U.S. ASSESSMENT. FURTH PROMISED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH DG AND TO ENDEAVOR TO PERSUADE HIM TO COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST. (HE HAS SINCE CONFIRMED BY TELEPHONE THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE DG TO

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UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER SUCH INITIATIVE).

2. FURTH STATED THAT OF COURSE THE DG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME AND WOULD SUPPORT, TO THE EXTENT THAT HE COULD, ANY INITIATIVE THAT THE US MIGHT WISH TO TAKE IN THIS DIRECTION. FURTH RECALLED LAST MINUTE EFFORT MADE BY THE NETHERLAND'S DELEGATION AND SUPPORTED BY THE USSR IN 27TH WHA ACCORDING TO WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, THE US WOULD HAVE HAD TO SHARE THE COST OF THE REDUCTION 0.04 PCT. TO 0.02 PCT. OF THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE FLOOR COUNTRIES. FURTH SAID THAT DG HAD BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO THE NETHERLANDS' EFFORT, WHICH FAILED ONLY BECAUSE IT CAME TOO LATE. THE DCM WILL BE SEEING DG MAHLER IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT WHICH TIME THE DG HAS INDICATED HE WILL EXPLAIN HIS VIEWS PERSONALLY TO US.

3. FURTH AGREED THAT THE MOST OBVIOUS BASIS FOR AN IMMEDIATE REDUCTION TO 25 PCT. WOULD BE FOR THE WHA TO AGREE THAT THE WHO SCALE SHOULD BE REVISED TO BRING IT MORE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE UN AND THAT NO MEMBER SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO WHO AT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE RATE THAN IN THE UN. HOWEVER, THE DG WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND SUCH CHANGE ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

4. A SECOND POSSIBILITY, THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, WOULD BE TO HAVE THE UN SCALE REVISED IN 1975, I.E. ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE NORMAL DATE FOR SUCH REVISION. THIS MIGHT BE SUGGESTED ON THE BASIS THAT THE UN SCALE SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON A TWO OR FOUR YEAR BASIS IN ORDER TO COINCIDE WITH THE BIENNIAL BUDGETING AND FOUR YEAR MEDIUM TERM PLANNING CYCLE. IN SOME SUCH CHANGE IN THE PERIODICITY OF THE REVIEW OF THE UN SCALE WRE TO BE AGREED UPON THIS YEAR, THE 29TH GA COULD INSTRUCT THE COMMITTEE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND HOPEFULLY THE FINDINGS OF THAT COMMITTEE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WHO IN TIME FOR THE 28TH WHA. THIS MIGHT PERMIT US TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASES OF OTHER MEMBERS BASED ON GNP INCREASES AND OTHER FACTORS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH A TRAIN OF EVENTS IS MINIMAL.

5. A THIRD AND ALSO RATHER EXTREME POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO TRY TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE USSR TO PAY AND ASSESSMENTS DUE FROM THE UKRAINE AND BYELORUSSIA. THERE IS NO REAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBABILITY OF THE USSR AGREEING TO THIS, IN FURTH'S OPINION.

6. COMMENT ON WHO'S ATTITUDE-IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT, IN THE EVENT CONGRESS MAINTAINS THE CEILING OF 25 PCT. FOR FY-76 (WHO'S CY-1975), THE PROSPECT OF A SHORTFALL IN US PAYMENTS AMOUNTING TO ONLY 0.64 PCT. OF THE TOTAL BUDGET (ASSUMING THE 25 PCT. LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE EFFECTIVE WORKING BUDGET) WOULD NOT POSE A GREAT FINANCIAL PROBLEM

FOR WHO. THE DG WILL NOT WISH TO APPEAR, OR TO HAVE
FURTH APPEAR, UNDULY TO FAVOR THE US IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM FROM
OTHER MEMBERS SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRENDS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA05010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740210-1155
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740880/aaaacqhe.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 161945
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDUCTION OF U.S. ASSESSMENT LEVEL IN WHO TO 25 PERCENT
TAGS: SWEL, AORG, US, WHO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005